During the period from 1991 to May, 2001, 12,842 proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth of Rs. 259,545.3 crore have been cleared. The total inflows amounting to Rs. 96,034.5 crore have been received during the period, showing a steady increase in FDI approvals and realisation during the post liberalisation policy period.

The amount of inflows has supplemented the domestic investment required for achieving a higher level of economic development. FDI benefits domestic industry by providing opportunities for technological up-gradation, access to global managerial skills and practices. It encourages optimal utilisation of human and natural resources, making Indian industry internationally competitive, opening up export markets and access to international quality goods and services.

Removal of export restrictions on agricultural products

965. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to lift export restriction on nine agricultural products including wheat, onions and pulses;

(b) if so, whether this is in the wake of dismantling of quantitative restrictions in imports;

(c) whether the decision to remove export restrictions has already been taken by the Ministry;

(d) if so, whether Government have finally approved the Ministry's proposal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by what time they are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) The Government has been following a consistent policy of liberalisation of trade and removal of restrictions on export and improt items from time to time. The Government has already removed quantitative restrictions on export of sugar. Wheat products have also been allowed for export without any quantitative ceilings for the current year, 2001-2002.

However in respect of other agricultural items, Government is constantly reviewing the position.

Impact of world market recession on Indian Trade

†966. SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the impact of recession in international market is affecting our exports; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of this year's trade deficit as compared to last financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Export performance *inter-alia* is influenced by international market conditions, export competitiveness of the domestic industry, and that of the competitors in other countires etc. India's lower export growth rate in the first two months of this year is on account of slowdown of the US and other developed country economics. Areas where sluggish export growth has been noticed during 2000-01 are plantation, gems & jewellery, sports goods, handicrafts and carpets, etc.

As per provisional data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, trade deficit, in US dollar, are as under:—

(US $ Million)

Year	Balance of Trade
1999-2000	(—) 12905
2000-01*	(—) 5739
2000-01 (April-May)*	(—) 1873.84
2001-02 (April-May)*	(—) 1194.51

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

*Provisional Figures